DISNEY COLLECTION
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A Newsletter for the Horticulture Division of Walt Disney World

Every Bloomin' Thing

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Vol. 6, No. 1 January 1984

SHOJI KANAOKA -- JAPANESE GARDENER

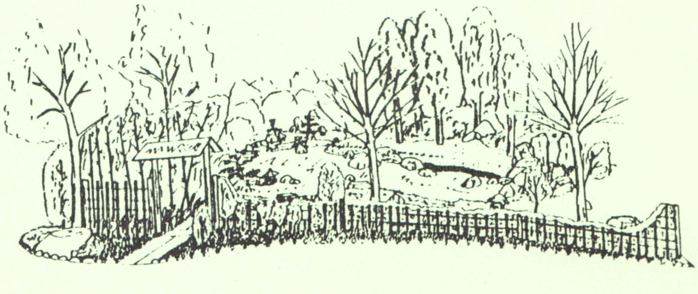
With the essential elements of a Japanese garden -- water, trees and stone -- in place, the stage was set for a gardener to combine and refine them into a traditional Japanese landscape. This has been the responsibility and ambition of Shoji Kanaoka, World Showcase gardener at Japan.

Born on the Japanese island of Hokkaido, Shoji is the son of a governmental agricultural agent and studied Landscape Architecture at a Japanese University for four years. To really understand a Japanese garden one must "train the heart" as well as the mind, to accomplish this, Shoji went to Kyoto to work under a gardener teacher. It was a desire to study European gardens and the resulting need to learn English that led Shoji to America in 1979. It wasn't until 1982 that he learned of the possibility of a position at EPCOT Center. After a brief visit to Japan, he returned to the United States, contacted the manager of Mitsukoshi Inc. and eventually was hired.

While complimenting Bill Evans and all other landscape architects involved in the garden's design, he was sensitive to the missing details needed to create a more finished product. Rocks, water and plants are only a beginning, a setting where wider and deeper thoughts can occur. The garden should offer a means toward understanding all of nature through a small part of it.

The journey through a Japanese garden to the tea house is a preparation for the tea ceremony itself, a time for meditation and solitude. In order to prepare oneself for the traditional ceremony, a person would ritually wash the cares and dirt of the world from one's soul at a water basin in the garden. Recently Shoji developed such a basin area called a tsukubai, meaning to crouch, referring to the fact one must bend over to use the basin. It is actually an intricate grouping of rocks consisting of four large stones surrounded by a "sea" of gravel. One large stone in front is to kneel on, one to the right to set the water ladle on, one to the left to set a light on, and the fourth is hollowed out to hold water.

Other improvements Shoji has been involved in include the addition of two Zen gardens, several bonsai which he cares for, and the introduction of new groundcovers.



"HANGING AROUND"

Lately, if you've looked up at the trees in the park as you walk under, the question may have occurred to you, "How come those Arborists are always hanging around?" The answer, "It's our job. We hang from ropes and saddles so that we can reach all areas of each tree that need pruning." But the real reason has to do more with the vernal equinox (March 20) and the good old sun than with any propensity to lollygag.

We've been climbing and pruning as many oaks as possible - both to use winter dormancy and to cheat it.

Winter dormancy is of big use to us because whatever we prune now stays pruned well into the next growing season which begins roughly around the vernal equinox. And this spring, pursuant to the holiday freeze, we'll be too busy separating good wood from frost killed wood to do major thinning projects.

We cheat winter's inherent thermal frugality by opening up the trees which allow more sunlight to reach the landscape plants underneath and opens views. And the Touroides frigidicus (cold tourists) walking along feel the sun in all its golden, though somewhat abated, glory.

So winter, all the finger blowing and coffee drinking aside, is a good time for the tree crew. Next time you see us just "hanging around", you'll know we're actually hard at work.

Andrew Kittsley, Lead
The Magic Kingdom Arborist Crew

DECEMBER IN REVIEW

December was a good month here at DISNEYLAND. The weather was mild, and void of frost or Santana winds. We planted about 12,000 poinsettias. The weather was even good to them.

Decorating and Landscaping shined with Christmas theming. Our Landscaping Department used 4", 6", 8" - red, white, pink, marble, and yellow poinsettias to give the Park a real Christmas feeling. With so many color and size variations available, it has been fun creating unique and beautiful patterned mass plantings.

Wishing everyone a prosperous New Year!

Ken Inouye, Superintendent
DISNEYLAND

PESTICIDE EFFICIENCY

Because efficiency is one of the most important aspects of pest control, we make every effort to ensure that our pesticide programs are operating in the most efficient manner possible.

Many factors are involved in our programs, but the most important factor is early detection of pest problems and correct diagnosis. Regular inspections by supervision and pest control operators help to insure this. Utilizing our knowledge of disease cycles or the pest in question, we are able to evaluate the problem and correct it with a minimum of delay.

Some of the procedures we follow include:

1.) Check product labels to make sure they are registered for the pest and crop in question.

2.) Follow-up applications are scheduled as needed.

3.) Pesticides are applied early in the morning after crops have been properly irrigated, thus reducing evaporation and the chance of phytotoxicity.

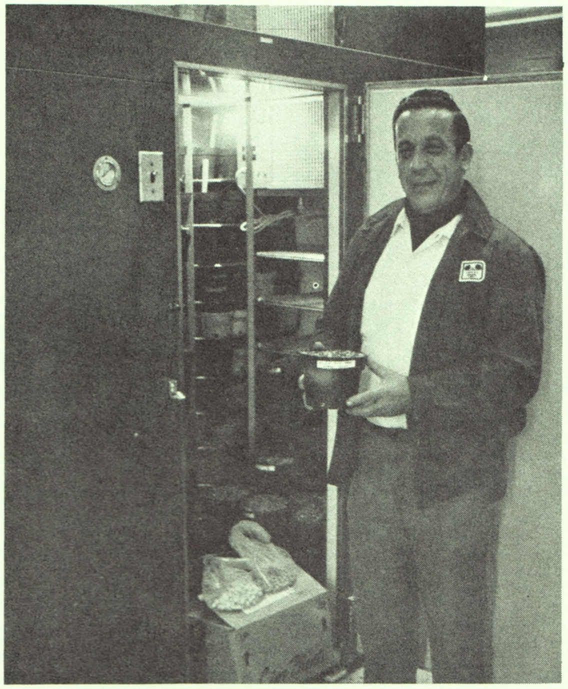
4.) Every effort is made to alternate pesticide families to avoid resistance buildup for insects, mites and diseases.

5.) Preventive schedules are utilized to avoid various pest problems before they have a chance to develop.

Phil Flanagan, Supervisor
Horticultural Pest Control

SPRING BULBS FOR THE LANDSCAPE

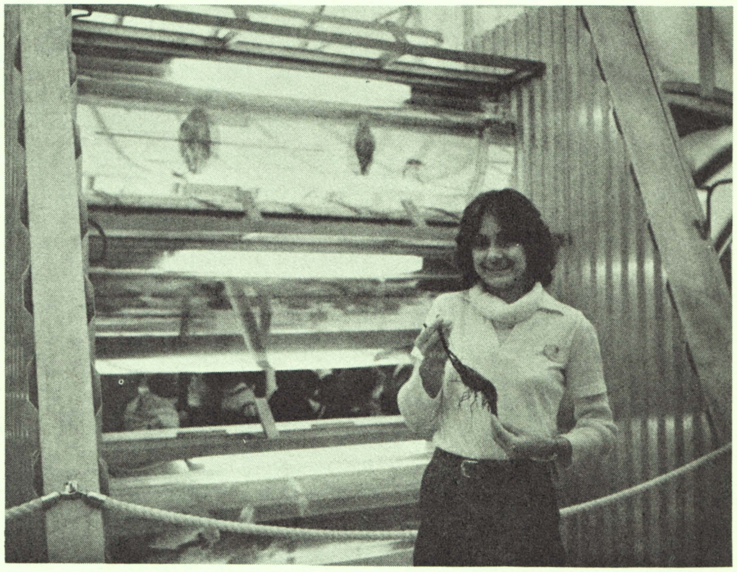
You might believe that it's too early and too cold to think about spring bulbs, but the Nursery has been thinking about them and working on them since last October. The bulb cooler at the Nursery has been full of bulbs for three months and paper white narcissus have already been delivered to Disney Story Garden for January color. The main purpose for using a cooler for pre-chilling is to promote root development while holding back the shoot growth. In fact, the next three months should be full of color especially around the Hub area in the Magic Kingdom.



The basic cycle is that once the spikes have bloomed, the foliage is allowed to die back. The bulbs are dug up and the bulblets are separated and kept in a cool dry place and pre-chilled for planting the following year. Depending on the types of bulbs, it could take 4-6 weeks for the chilling process. During growth, prior to planting out, they are fertilized two times per week.

Some of the plants you will be seeing are: hyacinths, pineapple lilies, Peruvian daffodils, gloriosa daisies, anemones and ranunculus to name just a few. Be sure to look at the Hub area for a super show.

Les Weller
Tree Farm/Nursery



GIANT SHRIMP

Get your jumbo shrimp $9.95 a pound! Prices like this make shrimp farming very attractive. While most of the shrimp consumed in the world is marine shrimp, here at The Land we are growing a giant freshwater shrimp in our Aquatubes. Commonly called the Malaysian Prawn, Macrobrachium rosenbergii is native to the Indo-Pacific region and is the most cultured freshwater shrimp in the world. If allowed, it can grow to well over one pound.

Virtually all prawn culture occurs in ponds, with seines and nets used to harvest. These shrimp require 3 square feet of bottom area per animal because of their aggressive territorial behavior which often results in cannibalism at higher densities. Artificial feeds are provided to supplement naturally occurring food in the pond ecosystem. Six to eight months are required to reach a harvest size of about 12-48 shrimp per pound, with yields averaging 2.7 metric tons per hectare.

U.S. production is almost exclusively limited to Hawaii where 400,000 pounds were produced in 1983. In most markets, distinction between freshwater and marine shrimp is rarely made because of the almost identical flavor and texture. In Hawaii, most prawns are being marketed in the traditional way, with heads left on, catering to the rich oriental heritage.

Jane Evans
The Land

PLANT POINTERS -- FROST CONTROL

TWO TYPES OF FREEZES

Tropical and sub-tropical plants are in many of our landscapes and must be protected from freezing winter temperatures. All freezes can be put into one of two categories, radiational or advective.

Dry radiational freezes leave no ice deposit, but do cause freeze damage. Plant damage from a radiational freeze can be minimized by reducing radiant heat loss from plant and soil surfaces.

Advective freezes occur when cold air masses move from northern regions causing a sudden drop in temperature. Windy conditions are normal during advective freezes, consequently, plant protection is more difficult.

PRECAUTIONS BEFORE THE FREEZE

1) Tender material should be planted in a protected spot with good drainage. Poorly drained soils result in weak shallow roots more susceptible to freeze.

2) Proper plant nutrition means avoiding late applications of fertilizer causing a late flush of growth which is more susceptible to cold injury.

3) Watering landscape plants before a freeze can help protect plants. A well watered soil will absorb more solar radiation than dry soil and radiate heat during the night.

4) Protect the bark of young trees and shrubs by wrapping the trunk, beginning at the base and working up, using a commercial tree wrap or burlap strips.

5) Plants in containers should be moved into a protective structure or grouped together and covered.

DURING THE FREEZE

Once the temperatures begin to drop near freezing, priorities must be set concerning what should be protected and when. Before the freezing point is reached, tender tropical plants and annuals should be protected with smudge pots and/or blow heaters. At freezing, considerations should be given to protecting tender trees such as erythrinas, jacarandas, chorisias, bauhinias and cassias. If temperatures should reach 20°, frost control efforts should be directed towards specimen shrubs and trees, as little can be done to save tender annuals.

When a constant and dependable water source is available, ornamental plants can be protected during a freeze by sprinkling plants with water. This utilizes latent heat released when water changes from a liquid to solid state. Caution: Sprinkling must begin as freezing temperatures are reached and continue until thawing is completed. Due to the nature of our areas, this method is seldom used to avoid the safety hazard of icy walkways.

Care should be taken that automatic irrigation clocks do not operate during a freeze, causing ice damage and hazards.

FOLLOW UP AFTER THE FREEZE

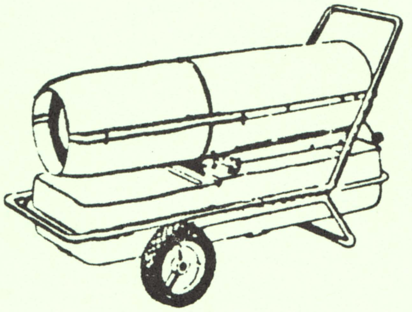
1) Apply water to thaw the soil and provide available water for the plant.

2) Evaluate cold damaged plants to determine the best treatment. Options include cutting back, removing or leaving damaged plant material, depending on the location and the extent of the damage. Early pruning may remove live wood capable of recovery, but may be necessary to maintain the show. It also induces tender new growth that will be susceptible to new cold. If possible, dead vegetation left intact can provide a protective screen against new cold.

3) Always be prepared. Many times cold weather strikes with little or no warning. Frost control supplies should be accounted for and readied for use at the beginning of the season and at the end of each frost control shift.

FROST CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

* Keep combustible materials away from heaters.
* Do not move, service or handle when hot.

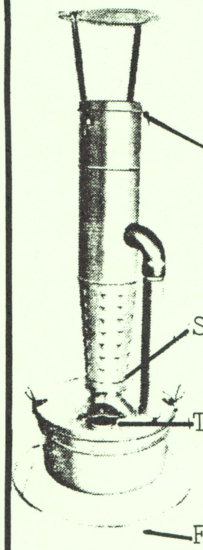


Forced Air Heater

* Supplies heated forced air at ground level.
* Ignites automatically when switched on.
* Fill with keresene. Use only properly grounded extension cords.

Smudgepot

* Supplies radiant heat.
* Ignite with a propane torch, do not use a butane lighter.
* Fill with diesel fuel.



Stack cap - Open when lit, shut to smother fire.

Stack vent - Open to light, shut to smother fire.

Tank cap - Open to fuel up or ignite, holes in cap regulate air flow.

Fiberglass drip-pan - Protects sod and concrete.

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